## R E M A R K S

With respect to the absence of a copy of the priority document from the PCT Office, Applicants will write to the PCT Office to ensure that, in accordance with PCT procedures, the copy of the certified priority document is sent to the U.S. Patent Office for the U.S. National Stage.

With respect to the Information Disclosure Statement, the Examiner indicated that Reference AL – DE 69 515 923 – was not considered. But as indicated in Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, Reference AE, namely U.S. Patent 5,731,823, is the English language U.S. equivalent of the German '923 patent. Therefore the Examiner has in effect, considered the '923 reference already by reviewing the U.S. corresponding Reference AE.

The specification objections noted by the Examiner have been corrected by specification amendments herein. Note that the trademarks have been capitalized. This is a sufficient indication of the proprietary nature of these trademarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 32-33 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. The points of indefiniteness in those previous dependent claims are corrected in the new corresponding depending claims.

The rejection of claims 26-35 and 39-48 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is avoided since the new method claim 51 clearly recites the use of a computer to perform the various process steps and also recites a display. Thus the method is tied to a specific machine.

The Examiner rejected previous claims 26-31, 33-37, 39-45, and 47-49 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Dexter.

New claim 51 clearly distinguishes over Dexter in the following manner. First, claim 51 recites generating a print data stream with data of a plurality of print pages

-8-

wherein a first object property is associated with at least one region of the print pages. Dexter does not teach this. Dexter starts with the step of "scanning an optical image into a digital version of the image" – see Dexter's title in paragraphs 0003 to 0007 and 0031, and claim 1 of Dexter. Therefore, Dexter does not generate a print data stream in an initial process step. Rather, Dexter creates a print data stream at a later process step after a user assigned properties to image regions – see for example paragraph 0038 – "all decisions on processing are automatically applied to each region by the system... the final output is rasterized into one bit data stream...". According to this paragraph of Dexter in the previous paragraph 0037 of Dexter (and also Fig. 5), the regions in respective process decisions in Dexter are determined by the user in advance. Paragraphs 0031 to 0036 and Figs. 1-4 of Dexter also support this.

Next, claim 51 distinguishes at least by reciting in a first raster process rasterizing at least the print data of the selected part of the at least one region under control and by use of said first object property, and also by reciting processing the print data of said selected part of the at least one region in a second raster process dependent on both of the first and the second object properties. Thus, in the invention of claim 51 two raster processes are applied to print data streams – namely a first raster process applied to the first data stream before the associating of the at least one second object property. This is important since the initial first data stream of claim 51 is not rasterized, whereas the initial data stream of Dexter is already rasterized. In Dexter there is no process of first rasterizing a print data stream and afterwards assigning or re-assigning properties to objects. There is no possibility in Dexter to change a region type after it has been assigned.

In Dexter there is no processing of the print data of the selected part of the at least one region in a second raster process dependent on both of the first and the second object properties.

Dependent claims 52-58 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 51.

Method claim 59 distinguishes for the reasons noted with respect to claim 51 but in the last paragraph recites that the print data of the selected part of the at least one region is processed in a second raster process dependent on only the second object property. This is also not disclosed in Dexter.

Dependent claims 61-68 distinguish at least for the reasons independent claim 60 distinguishes.
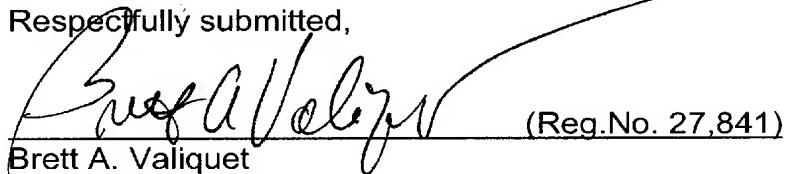
Independent claim 61 distinguishes at least for the reasons independent claim 51 distinguishes.

Independent claim 70 distinguishes at least for the reasons independent claim 60 distinguishes.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,

_(signature)_ (Reg.No. 27,841)

Brett A. Valiquet
Schiff Hardin LLP
Patent Department
Suite 6600 233 S. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 258-5786
Attorneys for Applicants.
**CUSTOMER NO. 26574**

CH2\8186932.1

-10-